



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1st -- Lana W.
1st -- Rylan P.
2nd -- Stella C.
10th -- Bradyn S.
11th -- Logan S.
11th -- Miss Leslie
13th -- Aaron A.
13th -- Camden J.
13th -- Parker A.
15th -- Lorenzo B.
16th -- Connor D.
22nd -- Madden R.
26th -- Miss Pam

Employee of the Month:
Miss Jessica



Winter Reviews Going Home

First, let me say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that participated in our Little Caesar's Fundraiser! We raised \$4,143 to go towards the renovation of the little playground. Whether you sold items or made a donation, every dollar is truly appreciated! THANK YOU for always supporting our program!

I find it hard to believe, but we are already six months into the "academic" year. With that, we will be sending home Winter Reviews for you during early February.

These reviews are a way for us to give you an update on your child's progress and development, between our two regularly scheduled parent/teacher conference times.

Our teachers are continually observing your children during their "play" here at Kid Country and updating your child's assessment in our database. The Winter Review form you will receive is a summary of the data we have collected.

These reviews will be sent home via email as a pdf attachment. If you have any questions regarding the Winter Review you receive, don't hesitate to contact your child's teachers. You may call, email or talk

with them in person – choose the method that works for you! If you would prefer to sit down and meet with your child's teachers now, please don't hesitate to ask that as well. We can certainly set something up that works for you. Our next scheduled parent/teacher conference time is in May, so we will meet with you then unless you reach out sooner.

February also marks the time when we complete our in-house registration. Forms for registering for the summer of 2018 and the 2018-19 school year will be going home on February 12. Registration fees will be due when you return your enrollment forms, as this is your commitment to us that you intend to enroll your child. We cannot save a spot for your child without that commitment! The new tuition rates, instructions on how to register, and due dates for turning the forms in will be contained in the packet that goes home on February 12. So start thinking about your plans now!

Have a great month!

Donna



YELLOW DUCKS

The month of January has been filled with many new experiences and many new faces as well! Our nest has grown by three, and sadly we are losing three as well. We are happy and excited to welcome Iris, Maddie and Brantley to the pond, but are sad to see Maggie, Andrew and Austin transition into the Purple Parrot room! Transitioning is bittersweet to the Yellow Ducks



because the teachers are excited for the new toddlers but are very sad to see them fly over to the Parrot room.

As we have many new small babies in the pond, we have been working on gross motor skills and also many other milestones. Gross motor is the use of any big muscles and with the usage of these skills the babies will learn skills such as crawling, rolling over, walking and sitting up. It is beneficial to always engage their gross motor skills for future uses. We utilize these skills by tummy time, time in the jumperoo, mat play and also tunnel play. When the weather becomes a little warmer, we will bring the babies outside for them to run, walk and crawl all over the playground. There are many ways we can engage their gross motor skills, but one we focus on a lot is tummy time.

Overall, it was another chilly and wet month, but also full of wonderful learning opportunities and experiences. The classroom is filled with joy and excitement welcoming all of the new ducks! We wish the older babies that are transitioning the best of luck and cannot wait to see what the rest of their journey at Kid Country will bring. Miss Krista, Miss Hailey and Miss Nyjha

Blue Gills

The frigid weather didn't slow down the Blue Gills this month. Because of the cold temperatures, we decided that it was a great time to learn all about Arctic animals and demonstrate a little knowledge of characteristics of living things. We also were able to tie in some Social Studies as we explored some simple geographic knowledge.

As we learned all about Polar Bears we found out that underneath all of that thick white fur is black skin. We also used some comparisons as we measured a full grown polar bear (9 ft. tall) against our own shorter heights. We also stretched our vocabulary as we learned that the Polar Bear's scientific name is *Ursus Maritimus*. It's always fun to say new words!

Penguins taught us how to count fish to eat, and explore dance and movement concepts. As we listened to the music and followed the directions, we quickly learned

how to flap our right and left wings, then our right and left feet. Pretty soon we were all getting to be more aware of the right and left sides of our bodies. We all became Daddy penguins and tried to walk with an egg between our legs. Now that was a hoot to watch!

Through the numerous Arctic activities that the children in the Blue Gills room had, they explored problem solving, expanded their vocabularies, interacted with read-alouds, and had a really fun time meeting all of these goals for themselves.

Miss Rhonda, Miss Jenna and Miss Wendy



PURPLE PARROTS

This month, the toddlers have continued to learn all about the cold weather and the different things that it has to offer. To kick the month of January off, we created winter wonderlands that were hung in the hall for everyone to enjoy.

We incorporated our fine motor skills by peeling and sticking winter themed stickers onto a blank paper. As we used our pincer grips to transfer the stickers we also used our communication and social interaction skills to discuss the different things that we observed. We talked about the colors we saw, the shapes that were on the stickers, and the different sized stickers that were used. This was a great way to come together as a class and strengthen some important skills!

Later we took our winter wonderland to the next level by adding animals! The

children had a blast learning about the different arctic animals like polar bears, penguins, and seals! Our sensory skills were defiantly put to work this month as a teacher helped us step bare foot into black paint and transfer it to a life size polar bear paw print. Some of us loved the feeling of cool paint between our toes and others were a little hesitant at first. These animals were new to many of the children and they ended the month with more knowledge than ever. Take a moment to ask your child where a polar bear lives, what color a penguin's tummy is, or what either animal eats!

The Purple Parrot's had a great time learning about the arctic and cannot wait to dive into the season of love and start exploring Valentine's Day! Miss Kim, Miss Pam, Miss Kathy, Miss Marisa and Miss Danni

GREEN FROGS

As the chilly weather moved its way towards Kid Country, the Green Frogs began their study on the arctic! During this study, the Frogs learned many new and interesting things about life in the arctic and the animals that live there!

During our circle times this month, the Green Frogs worked on their communication and listening skills as they

engaged in conversations with both their peers and teachers. We began by discussing the knowledge that we already had about the arctic including that it is cold, snowy, and polar bears live there. We explored how it may be different living in the arctic instead of living in Manhattan. The Frogs discovered that we would need big, furry coats like the Eskimos have and we would have a very hard time walking around on the slippery ice!

Despite the low temperatures that we saw this month, Mother Nature gave us a few opportunities to enjoy the brisk weather! The Green Frogs had a great time romping around in the snow with their Orange Owl friends and teachers! We had snowball fights, made snow angels, and even slid down



the slide into snow piles! When the snow finally melted away, the Frogs had the chance to imitate some of their favorite arctic animals as we played on the driveway! We waddled like puffins, ran like arctic foxes, and pranced like caribou! When the temperatures didn't allow us time outside, we still found plenty of opportunities to move and groove! We did plenty of music and movement, arctic animal yoga, and even iceberg hop in the

hallway!

The crafty Green Frogs kept themselves very busy with plenty of projects and activities this month! We worked on our AB patterning as we created colorful sleds to slide up and down our classroom walls. The Frogs also had the opportunity to create their favorite arctic animals based off of real-life animal photos! The Frogs enhanced their fine motor skills as they cut and created as well as their conversation skills as they used new words such as tusks, blubber, and antlers. One of the

Green Frogs' favorite projects this month was their polar bear paws! The Frogs learned all about how large a polar bear paw is and had the opportunity to compare it to their own painted foot! We practiced our counting as we included paw pads, toes, and claws to our creations!

Overall, the arctic was a very busy month full of fun and learning! Miss Fran, Miss Jessica, Miss Courtney and Miss Wendy



Kid Calendar

Week of 2/5
Wednesday, 2/14
Friday, 2/16 and
Monday, 2/19
Tuesday, 2/20
Thursday, 2/22

Winter Reviews sent home
Valentine Day Parties
Blue Gills Program Closed
Blue Gills Field Trip (Laraway Lanes)
Green Frogs, Orange Owls Field Trip (Ball Factory)

Blue Dolphins

With the weather being so cold, the Blue Dolphins have had an ample amount of time to work on indoor games. Which means they have been busy this month working with each other, and individually, to bring some outside games inside the classroom. They have created awesome marble tracks using various items around our room, being great at taking turns, and have also been helping each other out.

The Dolphins have used many innovative ways to create ideas for indoor basketball and dodgeball, substituting small squishy items to make it safe for indoor play. They have also shared ideas with each other and worked on communication. It's been fun watching and we are pleased and proud of their team work and creativity!

Please take some time to support the Blue Dolphins with collection of pop tabs from any can items throughout the year. The Dolphins will be collecting them to help families at the Ronald McDonald House.

Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and maybe we can try to get outside soon! Please continue to have your child dress accordingly (boots, gloves, warm coats and hats).

We hope you had a wonderful first half month of 2018! Miss Donna K., Miss Rhonda, Miss Jenna and Miss Wendy

ORANGE WLS

We embraced the cold weather of Illinois by turning our classroom into the Arctic this month! With this study coinciding with our bitter weather, it gave us perfect opportunity to be able to compare and contrast not only the animals that are inhabitants of the Arctic, but the weather as well!

The Owls were rather knowledgeable about colder weather to begin with, but once we began to talk about how people, such as Eskimos, can actually live in it daily they were all ears! We learned that Eskimos build structures called igloos. Within these igloos, made of very cold packed snow and ice,

they would be able to block the cold throughout their time hunting. With this we had also found out that Eskimos do not permanently live in snow igloos but in fact houses made of hides and branches that are shaped exactly the same! While exploring further into these structures we made our block area into an Arctic habitat construction zone! The Owls worked together using our white

wrapped blocks and added items to build "snow" castles, houses, and of course, igloos!

As we furthered our learning, we expanded facts about the animals of the Arctic. Our favorite animal to discuss were the seals. With seals, we were able to learn about various kinds and why they are each unique. Like many animals they sleep on the land and hunt for their prey in the water. Their thick skin and blubber keeps them warm in the piercing cold waters. To test this out the Owls were able to place their hand inside of a double lined ziplock filled with

Crisco. They then tested one of their hands in the cold water and the other with the bag over it. This was a great hands on way for the children to see how important animals' fur and blubber are to keep them safe from the harsh temperatures.

RED ROBINS

The month of January brought the cold and abundance of snow to the environment of the Red Robin classroom. The teachers took full advantage of the temperature change in the study about the Arctic. This study was introduced at the end of December with the visit from Santa Claus who lives in the North Pole.

The teachers slowly introduced different living elements of the Arctic and North Pole

through placing color pictures of different homes and animals present in these atmospheres. During large group time and free play the Red Robin teachers would discuss the pictures with the children and identify the different components present.

To further the study, the teachers used our own weather conditions to describe and demonstrate the feeling of cold and snow. Ms. Holly brought

snow in from outside to build small igloos and snowmen like those in the Arctic. By incorporating tangible evidence of a concept, it allows the young children to experience using numerous senses and fully grasp the content.

Furthermore, the children tapped into their creative skills by making their own polar bears, igloos, penguins, and eskimos. The polar bears were made using a fork as a paintbrush and white paint. The use of a fork is age appropriate as they are learning how to manipulate a fork with the fine motor skills of their hands. By using the fork to spread

We have wrapped up our Arctic study, and we are now on the move to the African Plains and can't wait to see what we learn! Miss Bailey, Miss Rachel, Miss Melissa and Miss Bailey

the paint where they found fit engaged the muscles used for holding a fork when eating while creating art in a different manner than a paint brush. In addition, the Red Robins used a potato smasher to build their igloos out of white paint. Using a full fist grip to hold the potato smasher, the children spread the white paint around in an up and down motion. The penguins and the eskimos supported the development of the children's fine motor skills and emerging writing skills.

Overall, the cold month of January brought snow, ice, and many learning opportunities. The Red Robins were excited about the wintery moments but even more enthused about the upcoming season of spring! As the weather changes we will be venturing outside as much as possible so please remember to prepare your child's attire

appropriately Miss Emily, Miss Holly, Miss Leslie, and Miss Madison



How many hearts can you find in this newsletter?

Drop a note in the tuition box or email Miss Donna with your guess! A Valentine prize will be given to one random winner (drawn from all the families that submit the correct number).

All entries are due by 2/6!